Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Shepherd's Voice

OCTOBER 2026



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Dear Good Shepherd Friends,



November 1 is All Saints Sunday. In our prayers, we will name people connected to our congregation who have died in the past year. If someone dear to you has died since last All Saints Sunday (November 2), please add their name to the sheet on the welcome table in the Gathering Space. Together, we will give thanks for their lives, support those who grieve and be renewed in the promise of resurrection.

Among those named will be Linda Gettle Shmidt, Brian's mom, who died January 10. We remember with gratitude her playful way with children, keen intelligence, sarcastic humor, love of flowers and animals, loyalty to family and deep faith in God through good times and dark valleys. My chest hurts as I write this; we miss her so much. On November 1, we will light a candle for her and for the faith she witnessed that lives on.

When we affirm in the Apostles' Creed our belief in "the Communion of the Saints," we are saying that a believer's death does not end our unity in Jesus. We remain one global and eternal family; their lives shine on through us, and we will be with them again when Jesus brings us home. As we read when we scattered Linda's ashes: "If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living" (Romans 14:8-9). Linda still calls Jesus Lord, just from a different place. We'll be together again. Until then, we will keep worshiping Jesus in heaven and on earth.

But All Saints is not only about remembering the dead; it celebrates all the saints. In Scripture, a saint is simply a believer in Jesus, dead or living, whose life shines through caring for others and sharing Jesus (Matthew 5:16). We light candles for those who mentor us in faith. For which faith mentor would you light a candle?

Today I give thanks for the many saints of Good Shepherd: those who encourage and counsel me; sing in the choir and play in the band; manage our administration and finances; prepare communion; repair, paint and lay carpet; welcome newcomers and advocate for the marginalized; make coffee, provide donuts and run the sanitizer; organize flocks and show up to serve; pray faithfully, visit the sick and crochet prayer shawls; and take part in Bible Study, book groups, men's group, LIFT and nursing home services. I am also thinking of the web of saints connected with us online and through blood, friendship and faith.

Do you recognize the light you shine? Through your daily lives—at different ages and stages, with smiles and tears—you witness to me and others: listening to Scripture, worshiping, singing, teaching, learning, laughing, caring, reaching for communion and earnestly seeking to love Jesus and serve your neighbors. Thank you, beloved saints of Good Shepherd, for the light you shine.

Pastor Kristen



All Saints Sunday is November 1.

On this day we remember loved ones who have died and give thanks for living saints who inspire us by their faithful witness.

If someone dear to you has died since last November 2 (last year's All Saints Sunday), please CLEARLY write their name on the sheet in the gathering space and we will give thanks for their lives during our prayers in worship on November 1, along with Good Shepherd Members who have died in the past year.

You are also invited to decorate a luminary bag for any loved one that has died. These bags will be part of our chancel decoration on All Saints Sunday.

Pre-planning for end-of-life

Good Shepherd will host two pre-planning for end-of-life seminars in October for people who are thinking about what happens at their own death or the death of loved ones.

The first seminar is on October 13th at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall and will be led by Caryl Jermeier of Helms Funeral Homes. It includes information about the cremation and burial options (including "green burials") and the options available through a funeral home and what a family can do on their own. Please email **caryl@helmsfuneralhomes.com** to reserve a place.

The second seminar is on October 22nd at 6:15 pm and will be led by Pastor Kristen. It includes information about the role of funerals in faith communities, funeral planning, and how to work with Good Shepherd and Pastor Kristen to plan for your own funeral when that time comes or the funeral of a loved one now. No preregistration is needed.

Welcome Friends & Neighbors Picnic

September 13, 2026









A huge thank you to our Outreach and Hospitality Committee for making this event possible!



Bible Sunday – *September 27, 2026*

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. – Psalm 119







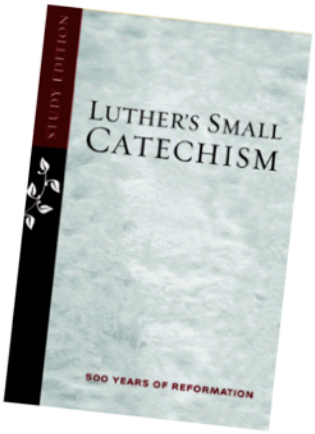






Lifelong Learning at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Life in the Lutheran Lane!



with Pastor Kristen, Prof. Wanda Deifelt, Pastor Melissa Bills, Prof. Brad Hanson, and others?

Three Mondays Remaining: Oct 5-19, 6:15-7:30

(Not too late to come!)

What does it mean to be a *Lutheran* Christian? Whether you grew up Lutheran or didn't even grow up going to church, this is a good class for exploring and refreshing your memory about the historical roots of Lutheranism, the basic teachings of our faith (using Luther's Small Catechism), and our current messy grace-filled call to live out our Christ-centered faith in a complex world. Expect discussion, humor, maybe even a door prize!

Invite a friend—even a non-Lutheran! It's going to be FUN!! 😊

No previous knowledge required. Please sign up in the gathering space or by calling the church so we have enough materials.

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1. Oct 5: How do we connect with God? Prayer/The Lord's Prayer
2. Oct 12: How does God's grace reach us? Worship, Sacraments, and Community
3. Oct 19: How it's Going: Living as Beloved Saints and Sinners in a Messy World



Decorah's Pride Festival and Party will be Saturday, October 10!

We are looking for ***LOTS*** of Good Shepherd Members to walk in the parade. Line up on Riverside Ave. at 12:30! We are also looking for a few volunteers to show our hospitality at our table in the Party on Winnebago from 1:30-3. If you are available, please contact Tristan in the office or talk to Pastor Kristen!





The next day, Sunday, October 11, we will celebrate Pride in worship! Invite your friends!



New Member Interest Meeting

Sunday October 11, 11-12 in the Library

If you are considering joining Good Shepherd, you are most welcome and this event is for you! This will be an informal time for prospective members to meet with Pastor Kristen and other leaders of the church to learn more about our congregation and what it means to be a member. It does not commit you to joining. Children are welcome! If childcare in the nursery would be helpful, please let us know and we will make arrangements. If you plan to attend, please sign up on the Welcome Table in the Gathering Space.

If you already know that you plan to become a member, please click here or scan this code to fill out our membership form online so that we can include you in everything happening at Good Shepherd.

We plan to receive new members in worship on Sunday October 18. You can still join even if you are not available on that Sunday.

Announcing a ***BRIEF*** Congregational Vote on October 18, 2026 to Amend the Bylaw regarding the Annual Meeting



The Congregational Council recommends that the congregation amend the bylaw of the church that sets the **date of the Annual Meeting** (C10.01.01).

The current bylaw states, "The Annual Meeting of this congregation shall be held on the first Sunday of Februrary [sic]." **Our recommended new wording states, "The Annual Meeting of this congregation shall be held on a Sunday between January 15th and February 15th."**

The reason for this change is that in 2027, Easter falls early in the calendar year. In addition, February starts on a Monday. As a result, **the prescribed date of our Annual Meeting would be on the same week as Ash Wednesday.** This would mean we are trying to plan the Annual Meeting at the same time we are planning for Lent. As such, it would be a huge help to Pastor Kristen and the staff to hold the Annual Meeting **one week earlier, on January 31,** instead of February 7. **Because the date of the Annual Meeting is set within our constitution, it will require a vote of the congregation to change it.**

It seemed prudent to the Congregation Council to avoid situations like this in the future by building a more flexible timeline for the Annual Meeting into the church bylaws.

We ask the congregation's members to stay after the worship service on October 18, 2026, for a brief meeting to vote on this proposal.



August Council minutes

You can view the August council minutes here or by scanning the QR code.

The September minutes will be approved at the next council meeting and will be available in the November newsletter.

Adult LIFT (Learning in Faith Together) Sessions for October, 2026
HAVE FUN; DO STUFF; BUILD COMMUNITY; LEARN SOMETHING NEW!

Join us for Adult LIFT programs on Wednesday evenings at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. A light supper will be served at 5:30, followed by the weekly program, with a short prayer and closing at 7.

Schedule for October, 2026:
October 7: "Building Community: Mental Illness Awareness Week"
With Norman and Susan Friedrich
"Building Community" is the motto for this year's Mental Illness Awareness Week sponsored by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). (our own Norman Friedrich is the board president of the local level of this excellent organization). Mental health affects everyone–and building community is one of the things we are called to do as people of faith. . What are some simple and joyful steps we can take to be a welcoming community?

October 14: SILT: Another Form of Stewardship
With Lyle and Sue Luzum
How do we protect a legacy and make it work for the next generation? The Children's Offering in October will support the Sustainable Iowa Land Trust (SILT), a non-profit organization that works to protect family-scale diversified farming–a kind of farming increasingly under threat by development and the consolidation of large-scale, monoculture farms. Come learn about Lyle and Sue's experience farming their 170 acre heritage farm, between Calmar and Decorah–and learn how working with SILT helped them protect their farm for later generations of young farmers.

October 21: "Can Ouy Dare Hsti?" Experience Dyslexia
With Katie Greving
Did you know that dyslexia is the most common learning disability? Despite this, most people know very little about it. Join us for an evening of dyslexia education and the chance to experience a hands-on dyslexia simulation activity designed to increase empathy and understanding.

October 28 Pumpkin Carving, Luminary Decorating and Reformation Celebrating!
With Guest Appearance from Katharina Von Bora
Get ready for All Saints Day with a surprise visitor who promises to bring us all the news from 1517. And pumpkin carving for all ages! Some pumpkins available, but bring your own pumpkin and tools if you have them. All are invited to come in costume!

Adult LIFT programming at Good Shepherd is organized by Martin Klammer, Lise Kildegaard, and Norman Friedrich, in consultation with Pastor Kristen Larsen-Schmidt. It is open to all. Participants don't need to prepare anything, and there won't be any follow up quizzes. Unless you count one of Martin's Good Shepherd Jeopardy extravaganzas!

SUSTAINABLE IOWA LAND TRUST

SILT

PROTECTING WORKING FARMS TO GROW LOCAL FOOD.

Our Children's offering for October: SILT, Another Form Of Stewardship

In late 2014 the Sustainable Iowa Land Trust was formed with the mission of preserving farmland for sustainable food production. SILT was a response to frustrations of the founder who kept complaining about the amount of land moving from agriculture to development and from family-scale diversified farming to large-scale petrochemical-dependent monoculture farming, and the resulting hollowing out of rural Iowa. A friend told her, "Don't just complain about it, do something." The result was SILT.

Land trusts are organizations with the responsibility to assure that the land under their trust is in compliance with certain restrictions, as defined in their charter. In SILT's case this is succinctly defined by its mission and vision statements. Those are:

Mission: *The Sustainable Iowa Land Trust (SILT) is dedicated to protecting working farms to grow healthy food.*
Vision: *To bring back a mix of different types of farms in Iowa, growing a variety of crops, including fresh food for people to eat.*

We heard about SILT at the 2015 annual meeting of the Oneota Community Food Coop. That was timely, as we were beginning to ponder the future of our 170 acre farm between Calmar and Decorah -- the Luzum family heritage farm since 1873, where my grandfather, father, me, and our daughter were raised, and where we lived since 1978. Surprise -- we were aging -- and wanted to somehow protect the long conservation and soil stewardship legacy my parents had left to our care. We recognized that finding the future stewards of this farm was a daunting task and, at best, we could only find the next steward. And what was also clear is that you can't have good local food if there is no place to grow it and no one who is able to do so. Access and affordability are huge obstacles for new food farmers. You can't just wish local food into existence. If you have resources, apply them as you can. We had a farm.

After 2 years of discussion and exploration, on June 2, 2017 we chose to donate our farm to SILT, with the understanding that they could manage it by recruiting farmers over time, with the rent (which included 98 acres in the Conservation Reserve Program) as a form of ongoing endowment. Or, it could be sold with the SILT easement, with the proceeds becoming a lump sum endowment for basic operations. We moved to town in Oct 2017 and this is how we ended up at Good Shepherd. I served on the SILT Board for six years, during which we became accredited by the Land Trust Alliance and established a solid governance model. For the last nine years SILT found the farmers, and many of you probably purchased produce at the Farmers Market from the farmers. With the departure of the current farmers, Carly & Ethan Zierke, who have just purchased a CSA farm west of Minneapolis, SILT, with our blessing, has decided to put the farm on the market with the easement. You can see (and pass on to anyone interested) this press release (and the listing) here.

Stewardship takes many forms. SILT, through its easement, will continue to steward the conservation, diversity, and food production capabilities of this farm into the future. And this sale will provide an endowment that will help provide fundamental financial resources, which every nonprofit needs for the long haul. We urge you to join us in supporting this version of stewardship of God's creation.

Lyle and Sue Luzum

Dear Friends in Christ,

On behalf of the Northeastern Iowa Synod of the ELCA, we offer our heartfelt thanks for your generous response following the devastating fire at the AgriStar meat processing plant in Postville. Your gifts have become tangible signs of hope for workers, families, and neighbors whose lives were suddenly disrupted by the loss of employment and uncertainty that followed.

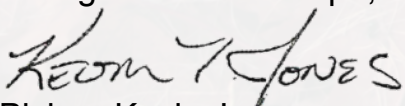
In moments of crisis, the body of Christ is called to come together in love and service. We have witnessed that call being lived out in remarkable ways throughout the Postville community. Since the fire, **Community Action, Catholic Charities, Postville Heart & Soul, St. Paul Lutheran Church, the Northeastern Iowa Synod, and Lutheran Disaster Response** have joined hands in a coordinated effort to care for those most affected. While local organizations have been providing direct assistance on the ground, Lutheran Disaster Response has brought the resources, expertise, and partnership of the wider ELCA to support both immediate needs and long-term recovery. Together, these ministries have provided rent assistance, utility support, food, household essentials, and other critical resources for workers and families navigating unexpected hardship. What could have been a story of isolation and despair has instead become a testimony to the power of community, compassion, and collaboration.

The response in Postville is a powerful example of the church at work, as congregations, community organizations, Lutheran Disaster Response, and faithful supporters join together to care for neighbors in need and bear one another's burdens.

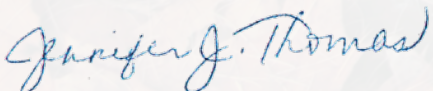
We continue to hold in prayer the workers and families affected by the fire, as well as the leaders, organizations, and volunteers who are serving them. We pray for strength where there is weariness, hope where there is uncertainty, healing where there is loss, and new opportunities for those whose livelihoods have been disrupted. Grounded in our faith in Jesus Christ, we trust that God remains present in the midst of hardship and continues to work through faithful people like you to bring comfort, hope, and renewal.

Thank you for standing with the people of Postville. Thank you for being partners in ministry. Thank you for making Christ known through your compassionate and generous support.

With gratitude and hope,



Bishop Kevin Jones
Bishop, Northeastern Iowa Synod, ELCA



Pastor Jennifer Thomas
Assistant to the Bishop for Shared Ministry and Development

We raised $1,412.78 for Postville fire relief in August. Thank you for your benevolent generosity!



Gathering Expedition for youth in Grades 8-12

This weekend retreat helps youth and their adult leaders step away from the noise to explore faith, purpose and leadership. It's a time to pause, listen and prepare for what God is doing next. Young people are invited to discover their voice and practice leading alongside others October 30 to November 1 at Ewalu. Through worship, service and shared learning, they will grow skills and confidence to live their faith boldly in daily life. This retreat will also serve as a stepping stone on the faith formation journey—building connection and momentum before the 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering, where the shared experience peaks in a powerful churchwide celebration of faith. Click here for more information and to register!



Come BACK to camp this fall!

Enjoy two nights of lodging in cabins, relevant Bible studies, quality meals & snacks, energetic camp counselors, active praise music, the High Ropes Course, campfires and much more. Grow in faith and meet new friends at Ewalu!

THE DETAILS

For large groups, a chaperone is required for every 10 youth in attendance. For groups with less than 10 youth, a chaperone is welcome and we'll work with small groups to have a suitable chaperone ratio.

Check-in is Friday, October 16, from 8 to 8:30 p.m.

This event will conclude on Sunday, October 18, at 11:00 a.m.

Lodging is bunk bed style; each person will need to bring their own bedding, bath towel and pillow.

- **WHO:** Grades 6-9 youth
- **WHEN:** 8 p.m. Friday, October 16, through 11 a.m. Sunday, October 18
- **COST:** $100/youth, $75/chaperone
- **All lodging, activities and meals included!**
- **TO REGISTER:** Scan code below or go to **www.Ewalu.org/Dirty-Feet-Retreat**

37776 Alpha Ave., Strawberry Point, IA (camp entrance is 3 miles west of town, on Iowa Hwy 3)
563-933-4700
Program@ewalu.org

EWALU
Camp & Retreat Center
Autumn Odyssey
55+ Retreat at Stone Center

Join us for our 55+ retreat, seniors!

Camp is not just for kids! Those age 55 and older are invited to Autumn Odyssey, our retreat just for seniors at the comfortable Stone Center. Learn from meaningful speakers, enjoy real relaxation and take part in activities like hiking and chair yoga, all in the scenic Driftless Region of northeast Iowa during peak fall color! The dates this year are October 14-16. Click here for more details and to register now.



Spiritual Seeking; the Role of a Spiritual Director
By James Barth, Sara Hopkins and Jane Jakoubek

Many religious and spiritual traditions recognize certain steps in a person's faith journey. For example, Lutherans practice Baptism and Confirmation as markers on the faith journey. But these formal steps don't encompass the whole journey. Spiritual growth often continues throughout life. Why? Because questions keep coming. Because we learn more about the Bible or church history or other faith traditions. Because life somehow makes us ask new questions about faith. And sometimes spiritual growth happens because something inside keeps pulling us forward.

Spiritual companions (or spiritual directors) are people whose ministry is to accompany seekers on these spiritual quests. Their primary job is the listen. Their goal is to help the one who is seeking to listen to the Spirit that is the real companion on all our spiritual journeys.

Spiritual companions are trained to listen to more than superficial feelings or statements. Their goal is to listen for the deeper yearnings that are prompting seeking. They invite people to listen for God's presence in the situations or yearnings they are facing. Time with a spiritual companion or director is time for the seeker to explore the questions and the circumstances and the yearnings that they encounter in their search for God. Often a person meets with their spiritual companion monthly; sometimes the conversations are more episodic. The arrangements about meeting frequency, locations and compensation are worked out between the seeker and the one they invite to join them on this journey.

Some spiritual directors work from within a particular tradition, and some seekers want a spiritual director from their tradition. Other seekers and companions move outside of a particular tradition. Most people who offer spiritual direction/companioning have received training and been certified for this ministry.

Who might find a spiritual companion or director helpful? Anyone who is feeling a yearning for more, for clarity, for seeing how God is at work in their life. Sometimes people work with a spiritual companion when they are discerning some important question about life. People struggling with things like a divorce or questions of how to live in the face of disability or retirement might find it helpful to have a spiritual companion to listen to the Spirit with them. Spiritual directors or companions are not therapists or counselors; their ministry is to help a seeker explore where God is in the matters that weigh on their hearts and minds.

Are you curious about what it would be like to have someone walk with you on your own spiritual journey? There are three people who are part of Good Shepherd who have trained as spiritual directors and have worked with spiritual directors themselves: James Barth, Sara Hopkins and Jane Jakoubek. They are glad to talk with anyone about these questions (see the directory for contact information). Pastor Kristen has a spiritual director and is also willing to talk with people wondering about this ministry.

Here is a prayer for all of us as we seek a closer relationship with God: *God of life and love, thank you for the questions, doubts and struggles that life brings because each of them is a chance to draw closer to you. Thank you for helping our hearts and our minds to keep searching for you through study, reflection, and prayer. Thank you for guiding us to the people and opportunities that help us grow in our faith, in our relationship with you, and in following the Way of life. Amen.*

Give yourself the gift of silence.

On **November 14th, from 8:30-11 am**, there will be a Silent Saturday at Decorah United Church of Christ. This time is open to all. There will be opportunities to walk a labyrinth, listen to God's voice through *lectio divina,* participate in centering prayer, use art materials for prayer and reflection, and pray or read or write in silence. Watch for details. If you have questions, you're welcome to see James Barth, Sara Hopkins, or Jane Jakoubek, the Good Shepherd contingent on the planning team.

Prayer for the month

Offered by Jane Jakoubek

O God, our hearts carry so much grief. Sometimes it shows up as sadness and tears. Sometimes it shows up as anger and jealousy. Sometimes it is an endless grey shadow over everything. We feel grief around us in so many ways. We know grief in so many ways in our own lives.

We grieve beloved ones who now rest with you. We grieve seasons of our lives now past. We grieve missed opportunities. We grieve poor choices. We grieve for our loved ones who are struggling. We grieve for those who are pushed aside by others. We grieve for the sins of past generations that weigh on those who follow. We grieve the ways we participate in a culture whose ways cause harm to others. We grieve our ignorance and failures to change what we can.

Forgive us, O God. Bring healing and comfort. Be with all who grieve. Help us remember you are with us in our grief. May our grief transform us and make us more compassionate toward others. May we bear your love and light to a grieving world. Amen.

THE GOOD SHEPHERD SCHOLARSHIP MINISTRY NEEDS YOU

The Good Shepherd Scholarship Ministry is funded through the Good Shepherd Mission Endowment Fund. The congregation has authorized the Scholarship Ministry Committee to utilize 4 percent of the fund's value annually to award the scholarships. Currently the fund has a value of approximately $255,000, which generates ten $1000 scholarships. This Scholarship Ministry has awarded over $40,000 in scholarships in the past 10 years and has established a Ministry that keeps our students connected to the church.

In researching the youth of the congregation, the committee estimates that as many as fifteen members may be attending college in any given year. That means that the Mission Endowment Fund needs a balance of $375,000 to generate fifteen $1000 scholarships. Given the growth of the MEF over the past eight years, and the total support of this ministry by the congregation, this challenge is realistic and reachable.

At the end of each year some individuals and families have chosen to contribute to the Mission Endowment Fund to support the Scholarship Ministry. Some do it because of income taxes, some do it because of RMD (Required Minimum Distribution), some do it out of generosity and some do it simply to support the ministry and our students. Whatever the motivation, gifts from members of the congregation have been essential in the development of the Scholarship Ministry and that will continue to be the case as the congregation continues to grow.

As we near the end of 2026 and you are considering your options and opportunities, please think about assisting the Good Shepherd Scholarship Ministry with a gift that will provide scholarships to Good Shepherd members forever. A check to Good Shepherd with "MEF" on the memo line will make it happen.

WELCA Newsletter

Good Shepherd will be hosting Bingo at Wellington Place on Tuesday, October 6 at 12:45 pm. Volunteers are needed to bring treats and help with the bingo. Sign up sheets will be available in the Gathering space.

43 LWR school kits were assembled on Tuesday September 22nd before our monthly Gather bible study. We will assemble LWR baby care kits on Tuesday October 27 at 6 pm. Volunteers will also be needed on November 6 at 3:30 to load LWR kits into Bob's pickup to be taken to Olson Trucking on Saturday. The kits will then be delivered to the warehouse in St Paul along with donations from other churches in Northeast Iowa. Olson's has been donating this service for many years. Contact Bev or Ann if you can help.

This month we will continue to collect items for baby care kits until October 21. Baby care kits will be assembled on October 27. Items needed for baby care kits are cloth diapers, small hand towels, infant sleepers, receiving blankets(up to 50 "square), sweater or jacket, cotton t-shirts, and 4 ounce soap bars. If you have questions, you can contact Sue Blom 320-491-7172 or Jan Siefken 563-380-3008. Thanks so much for supporting our LWR project this fall. A donation box has been set up in the fellowship hall.

The Northeastern Iowa Synodical women are sponsoring a travel fun fall field trip: Exploring Waterloo/Cedar Falls in Black Hawk County on Saturday, October 17th. The trip will include a visit to the Sullivan Brothers Iowa Veterans Museum & Grout Museum of History & Science and Three House Collaborative Campus Ministries on the UNI campus with lunch at Barn Happy in Cedar Falls. All activities are pay as you go. All women are invited, but you must RSVP by October 1st There will be car pooling. See Bev Sheridan for registration forms.

We will meet on October 27 at 6 pm in the church fellowship hall to assemble baby care kits. Cloth diapers, receiving blankets, 4 ounce soap bars and infant sleepers are still needed for these kits. If you have questions, you can contact Sue Blom, 320-491-7172 or Jan Siefken, 563-380-3008. Gather bible study will follow at 7 pm. All are welcome.

Gather Bible Study
Fall 2026: "Bold faith on an unexpected journey," by the Rev. Tiffany Chaney

Faith often leads us down paths we didn't expect—into wilderness places, across unfamiliar lands, and through seasons of grief and hope.

WELCA Newsletter

Session 2: Choosing loyalty, finding love Scripture: Ruth 1:1–22; 2:8–12; 4:13-17

Ruth, a Moabite widow, chooses to remain with her mother-in-law Naomi and step into an unknown future. Her bold faith is revealed in loyalty, courage and openness to God's and Mary Magdalene, women whose bold faith transformed their unexpected stories. Their encounters with God remind us that we, too, are seen, sustained and sent to carry good news into the world. (from the Gather magazine)

Upcoming events:

Oct 6: Bingo at Wellington Place
Oct 15: WELCA Fall program at Decorah Lutheran, 2 pm
Oct 17: NEIA SWO fall fun field trip, Black Hawk County/Waterloo, Cedar Falls
Oct 27: Gather Bible study, Fellowship hall, 6 pm assembling LWR kits; 7 pm Bible study
Kathy Buzza-Bible study, Connie Buresh refreshments
All are welcome!
Nov 6: Load LWR Kits at Good Shepherd, 3:30
Nov 7: LWR in-gathering, Olson's Explosives, 7:30 am to 10:30 am

Decorah Lutheran Church's WELCA invites you to our fall program on October 15 at 2 pm. We will be hosting a local musical group, The Decorah Ukulele Orchestra. This eclectic group has a love for music and practices on Sunday afternoons at the Senior Hospitality Center in Decorah.

Please join us for a fun afternoon of music, including "oldies", and dessert.

If you have any questions, please contact Cheryl Bergan, 563-382-4225.

For Thrivent policy holders:

Did you know that you have opportunities to receive $250 twice a year to use on Thrivent action teams? Many members have used them for our needs here at church. Krumkake, health, school, and baby kits, and our community picnic. Many have used them for needs in our community, national, or global help.

Not comfortable with computer skills to look into this? Just call: 1-800-Thrivent and a real person will walk you through the process. Pamphlets are on the table in the gathering space.

Music Schedule, Fall 2026



Sunday, 9/6	Guest choir (Nordic)
Wednesday, 9/9	Choir and Band rehearsals begin (7 pm and 7:45 pm)
Sunday, 9/13	Band plays Prelude/Offertory/Postlude Band plays for picnic
Sunday, 9/20	Choir sings offertory ("Cornish Canon")
Sunday, 9/27	Handbells play offertory (TBA)
Sunday, 10/4	Jazz Service
Sunday, 10/11	Pride Sunday: Choir sings offertory ("Brave")
Sunday, 10/18	Handbells play offertory (TBA)
Sunday, 10/25	Reformation/Polka: Band plays prelude/offertory/postlude
Sunday, 11/1	Guest choir (Collegiate)
Sunday, 11/8	Choir sings offertory ("My Spirit Longs for Thee")
Sunday, 11/15	Band plays prelude/offertory/postlude
Sunday, 11/22	Choir sings offertory ("Come We That Love the Lord")
Sunday, 11/29	Advent 1: Handbells play offertory (TBA)
Sunday, 12/6	Advent 2: Choir sings offertory ("Advent Prayer")
Sunday, 12/13	Advent 3: Band plays prelude/offertory/postlude
Wed., 12/16	Christmas Pageant—band plays with kids
Sunday, 12/20	Advent 4: Handbells play for offertory (TBA)
Thur., 12/24	Christmas Eve: Choir and Band will offer music during service
Fri., 12/25	Possible carol sing at Aase Haugen in afternoon
Sunday, 12/27	Solo or small ensemble opportunity!

Choir rehearses weekly (beginning 9/2), Wednesdays 7-7:45 pm;
on Sundays when choir sings, warm-up at 8:45 am
Band rehearses weekly (beginning 9/2), Wednesdays 7:45-8:30 pm;
on Sundays when band plays, warm-up at 8:45 am
Handbells rehearse at 8:45 am on the morning we play

All members/friends/guests of Good Shepherd are welcome to join any of these groups. For more information, please contact our music director, Brooke Joyce: 563-419-9995, or wbjoyce3@gmail.com.

Scripture for the month

Sunday, October 4	***19th Sunday after Pentecost – Jazz Service***
Isaiah 5:1-7	*The song of the vineyard*
Psalm 80:7-15	*Look down from heaven, O God; behold and tend this vine. (Ps. 80:14, 15)*
Philippians 3:4b-14	*Nothing surpasses the value of knowing Christ*
Matthew 21:33-46	*The parable of the vineyard owner's son*

Sunday, October 11	***Pride Sunday***
Texts TBD	

Sunday, October 18	***21st Sunday after Pentecost – New Member Sunday***
Isaiah 45:1-7	*An earthly ruler as the instrument of God's will*
Psalm 96:1-13	*Ascribe to the Lord honor and power. (Ps. 96:7)*
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10	*Thanksgiving for the church at Thessalonica*
Matthew 22:15-22	*A teaching on giving to the emperor and to God*

Sunday, October 25	***Reformation Sunday – Polka Service***
Jeremiah 31:31-34	*I will write my law in their hearts, says the Lord*
Psalm 46	*The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. (Ps. 46:7)*
Romans 3:19-28	*Justified by God's grace as a gift*
John 8:31-36	*Jesus says, Continue in my word and you will know the truth*



October 2026

October 25 is Reformation Sunday – Wear red in honor of the Holy Spirit!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 5 pm Decorah Community Meal	2	3
4 Jazz Worship 9:30am Worship 11:30am Facilities & Grounds Meeting	5 12:15pm Church Staff Meeting 6:15pm Life in the Lutheran Lane 6:30pm AL/ANON	6 9:30am Bible Study	7 3:30pm Men's Coffee at Lefse Lodge 5:30pm LIFT	8 1pm Travel Club	9	10 12:30pm Gather for Pride parade 1pm Parade 1:30pm Party on Winnebago
11 Pride Worship 9:30am Worship 11am New Member Interest Meeting	12 12:15pm Church Staff Meeting 3:15pm Piano Lessons 5pm Worship & Music 6:15pm Life in the Lutheran Lane 6:30pm AL/ANON	13 9:30am Bible Study 4:30pm Stewardship Committee 5:30pm Education Committee 6pm Funeral Planning Seminar	14 10am/1pm/2:30pm Nursing Home Communion 3:30pm Men's Coffee at Lefse Lodge 5:30pm LIFT	15 12:30pm Scholarship Committee Meeting 3:15pm Piano Lessons 5pm Co-op Potluck	16	17
18 New Member Sunday 9:30am Worship	19 12:15pm Church Staff Meeting 3:15pm Piano Lessons 4:00pm Outreach & Hosp. 6:15pm Life in the Lutheran Lane 6:30pm AL/ANON	20 9:30am Bible Study 6:15pm Sons of Norway 6:30pm Council	21 1:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 3:30pm Men's Coffee at Lefse Lodge 5:30pm LIFT	22 3:15pm Piano Lessons	23	24
25 Reformation Sunday Polka Worship 9:30am Worship *NEWSLETTER DEADLINE*	26 12:15pm Church Staff Meeting 3:15pm Piano Lessons 6:15pm Funeral Planning Seminar 6:30pm AL/ANON	27 9:30am Bible Study 7:00pm WELCA Circle Meeting	28 3:30pm Men's Coffee at Lefse Lodge 5:30pm LIFT	29 3:15pm Piano Lessons	30	31



From the 2026 Welcome Friends & Neighbors Picnic

The Shepherd's Voice

The Shepherd's Voice is the monthly publication of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Decorah, Iowa.

Our Mission

We are a congregation empowered by the Good Shepherd to:

- **Nurture and support** Christ's flock through Christ centered worship.
- **Welcome all**, offering trust and respect while sharing God's unconditional love.
- **Reach out** to the broader community through service and responsible stewardship of all God's creation.

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